

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-16, as set forth in the verified translation of PCT/EP2004/051251, as published as EP 2005/003009 A1. Please also cancel claims 1-14 filed under Article 34 on October 18, 2004. Please add new claims 17-29, as follows.

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (New) A folding apparatus comprising:

 a spur cylinder;

 a folding jaw cylinder cooperating with said spur cylinder and defining a transfer gap in cooperation with said spur cylinder;

 at least one spur strip on said spur cylinder and having a plurality of spur needles adapted to releasably hold a leading end of a first signature passing through said transfer gap;

 at least one deflector on said spur cylinder and usable to selectively cover said spur needles; and

 means for moving said at least one deflector between a spur needle exposing position retracted in said spur cylinder and a spur needle covering position extending from said spur cylinder in response to rotation of said spur cylinder and passage of said at least one spur strip through said transfer gap.

18. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one deflector is

retracted during passage through said transfer gap and extended after passage of said at least one spur strip through said transfer gap.

19. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one deflector, in said spur needle covering position, is arranged between an end section of a released signature and extended spur needles of a second spur strip subsequent to said at least one spur strip on said spur cylinder.
20. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said spur cylinder has an axis of rotation and said at least one deflector extends parallel to said spur cylinder axis of rotation.
21. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one deflector is a comb having teeth assigned to said spur needles.
22. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one deflector extends radially outwardly beyond said spur needles.
23. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 further including a second spur strip adapted to releasably hold a leading end of a second signature and wherein said at least one deflector is positioned before, in a direction of rotation of said spur cylinder, said second spur strip.

24. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one deflector covers said at least one spur strip after passage of said at least one spur strip through said transfer gap.

25. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one spur strip and said at least one deflector are retracted after passage through said transfer gap.

26. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 wherein said at least one deflector includes an inclined face extending from a shell face of said spur cylinder opposite to a direction of rotation of said spur cylinder.

27. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 17 further including a straight line extending between axes of rotation of said spur cylinder and said folding jaw cylinder and wherein said deflector, in said spur needle covering position, is arranged within an angular range of between 30° and 60° with respect to said straight line.

28. (New) The folding apparatus of claim 27 wherein said angular image is between 30° and 45°.

29. (New) A spur cylinder adapted for use in a folding apparatus comprising:
at least one spur strip supported on said spur cylinder and having a plurality of spur needles;
a spur cylinder shell surface, said spur needles being extendable and

retractable with respect to said shell surface;

a deflector associated with said at least one spur strip and extendable and retractable with respect to said shell surface and said at least one spur strip, said deflector selectively covering and exposing said spur needles in response to rotation of said spur cylinder.

SUMMARY

The specification of the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as set forth in the verified translation of PCT/EP2004/051251 has been cancelled in favor of the concurrently submitted Substitute Specification. A suitable Abstract of the Disclosure has been added. These changes and additions do not constitute any new matter.

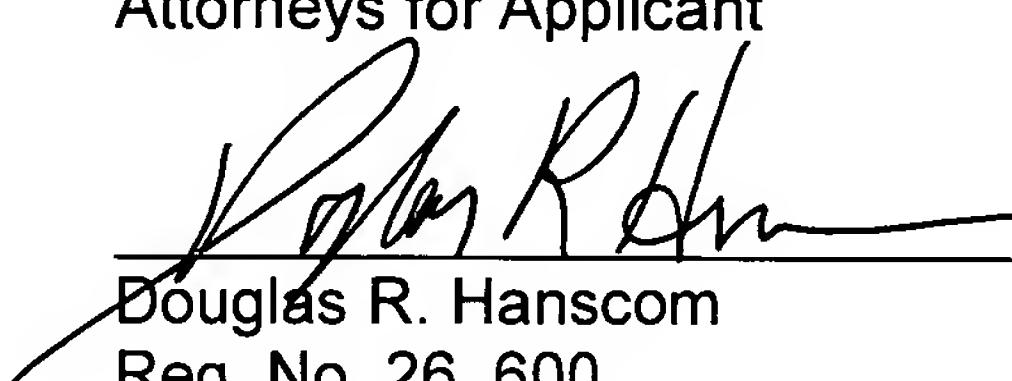
Original claims 1-16 and Article 34 claims 1-14 have been cancelled. New claims 17-29 have been added. New claims 17-29 are essentially the same, in scope, as the claims now pending in the PCT application. They have been rewritten more in a form in accordance with U.S. practice and eliminating multiple dependencies.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment into the file of the subject U.S. patent application, prior to the calculation of the filing fee, and prior to an examination of the application on the merits, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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